

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.       A multi-media patient summary comprising:  
a digital file encapsulating patient information of one or more formats and generated by:  
accessing patient information at a compilation workstation from one or more systems;  
entering the patient information into the digital file;  
storing the digital file onto a machine readable medium; and  
10       loading the digital file at one or more remote client workstations.
2.       The multi-media patient summary of claim 1, wherein the one or more  
formats of the patient information is at least one of text, an image, a waveform, audio,  
and a hypertext link.
- 15           3.       The multi-media patient summary of claim 1, wherein the patient  
information is accessed from at least one of an image handling system, an information  
system, and a diagnostic modality interface.
- 20           4.       A method for providing a multi-media patient summary, comprising:  
accessing patient information of one or more formats from one or more systems  
to a compilation workstation;  
assembling the patient information into a digital file;  
storing the digital file onto a machine readable medium; and  
25       accessing the digital file at one or more client workstations.
5.       The method of claim 4, further comprising electronically transmitting the  
digital file to a client.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein a format of the digital file is an encapsulated file having patient information in a format of at least one of text, images, sound files, waveforms, and hypertext links.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein a system that supplies patient information is at least one of a picture archival communication system, a radiology department information system, a hospital information system, and a cardiovascular information system.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein a system that supplies patient information is a magnetic resonance imaging system.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein a system that supplies patient information is a computed tomography imaging system.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein the client workstation is a general purpose computer.

11. The method of claim 4, wherein the client workstation is a personal digital assistant electronic handheld device.

12. The method of claim 4, wherein the digital file is configured to be accessed by a physician at the one or more client workstations.

13. The method of claim 4, wherein the digital file is configured to be accessed by a patient at the one or more client workstations.

14. A method for generating a multi-media patient summary, comprising:  
configuring an electronic template at a compilation workstation to receive patient information of one or more formats from one or more systems;

receiving and encapsulating the patient information in the electronic template  
and compiling a multi-media patient summary;

storing the multi-media patient summary on a machine readable medium; and

displaying the multi-media patient summary at one or more remote client  
workstations.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising notifying a client of the  
status of the multi-media patient summary.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising accessing and replaying one  
or more patient information sound files compiled in the multi-media patient summary.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising selecting one or more user-  
selectable regions of the multi-media patient summary to display additional patient  
information.

18. The method of claim 14, further comprising viewing one or more patient  
information images compiled in the multi-media patient summary.

19. The method of claim 14, further comprising viewing one or more patient  
information waveforms compiled in the multi-media patient summary.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein patient information is received from a  
picture archival communication system.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein patient information is received from a  
hospital information system.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein patient information is received from a  
radiology department information system.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein patient information is received from a MRI system.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein patient information is received from a CT system.

23. The method of claim 16, wherein patient information is received from electrocardiography system as a waveform.

24. A system for creating a multi-media patient summary, comprising:  
at least one compilation workstation configured to receive patient information of one or more formats from one or more sources;  
the at least one compilation workstation configured to assemble and encapsulate the patient information into a digital file;  
the at least one compilation workstation configured to store the digital file on at least one machine readable medium; and  
at least one client workstation capable of accessing the digital file.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the format of the patient information is at least one of text, an image, a waveform, audio, and a hypertext link.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the patient information is supplied from at least one of an image handling system, an information system, and a diagnostic modality interface.

27. A system for providing a multi-media patient summary, comprising:  
means for accessing patient information of one or more formats from one or more systems;  
means for assembling the patient information into an electronic file capable of encapsulating patient information having different formats;  
means for storing the electronic file; and

means for accessing the electronic file.

28. A computer program, provided on one or more tangible media, for generating a multi-media patient summary, comprising:

5 a routine for receiving patient information of one or more formats from one or more systems at to one or more compilation workstations;

a routine for assembling and encapsulating the patient information into a digital file;

a routine for storing the digital file onto one or more machine readable media;

10 and

a routine for loading the digital file at one or more client workstations.

29. The computer program of claim 28, wherein the patient information is provided from at least one of an image handling system, an information system, and a  
15 diagnostic modality interface.

30. The computer program of claim 28, wherein the format of the patient information is at least one of text, an image, a waveform, audio, and a hypertext link.

20 31. The computer program of claim 28, wherein the one or more client workstations are at least one of a general purpose computer and a personal digital assistant electronic handheld device.